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in their own homes, the method of presenting the subject in the schools, and so on.

Such a plan has proven successful in several tuberculosis institutions. In nearly all cases the students on completion of their post-graduate training have been recommended to positions to carry on the work elsewhere, and still the demand continues far greater than the supply.

DR. GRENFELL'S WORK IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR *

By MARY KEATING, R.N.
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DR. GRENFELL'S work is a branch of an English work amongst the deep-sea fishermen of that country. It is called the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, but this particular branch of the work is generally known in this country as "Dr. Grenfell's Mission" or the "Labrador Medical Mission." It is very natural it should be known as Dr. Grenfell's mission, for he is the one who has worked it up and made it the blessing it is in that northern part of Newfoundland and the Labrador coast. It was originally and still is a medical mission, but it is a modern, up-to-date mission, realizing the importance of getting at the cause and removing it if possible as well as healing those who are sick. There is a great deal of poverty and distress amongst the people, due largely to their having only one means of earning a living, namely, fishing. If it is a poor fishing season everyone suffers, and this last winter has been a hard, sad one for many of those people, owing to a very small catch of fish last summer.

Dr. Grenfell is combining with the medical work anything that is possible to help the people. He has established a good many co-operative stores where the people can get good prices for their fish and good provisions at reasonable rates. They have had to take the price the traders set and then not cash but often poor provisions in exchange, so that these stores are proving a great help to many. He has built a good school at St. Anthony and wants to have it for all the children, with thoroughly-trained teachers. The schools are church schools, each little hamlet has its several schools, one for each church represented by the people. It is impossible to get proper teachers for the small salary

* Read in part at the Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, in Boston, June, 1911.

they can afford to give, so the schools in the north are very poor generally. The people cannot learn to do other things until they can read and write. They are just waking up to the knowledge that there are other things to do besides fishing, and the next few years will make a great difference. People are going there, often only for a short time, but the people of the land come in contact with them—and an influence is felt, a desire to know more of the places and things they have heard of from these transients.

There are four hospitals which have been open some years, another to be opened this summer. Three of these hospitals are on the Labrador coast, one in the northern part of Newfoundland; all do splendid work, as you would expect if you saw and knew those who are in charge of each. They are not inexperienced doctors, but men who have come from large cities and had many advantages, men who had proved themselves before they ever thought of doing this particular work, but who, when they went and saw the need and all that it was in their power to do, stayed gladly and hardly realize that it is a sacrifice, because they feel it is so well worth while doing. The nurses have come from large hospitals where they have been as well fitted to do their part as the doctors for theirs. I can only speak of the work at St. Anthony Hospital from experience; the others I never had an opportunity to visit, but I spent two years at St. Anthony, except four and a half months when I did district nursing on the Straits of Belle Isle.

Until four years ago it was not strictly a hospital, and not open all the year. Patients were there, and some splendid work done, but it was the only mission building where classes and meetings, etc., could be held, so that it was hospital and mission house combined. There wasn't a nurse there all the year, neither was there a doctor, except when the summer work amongst the fishing boats was finished, but the need of a regular staff and proper hospital equipment was realized and a nurse went up to be at St. Anthony all the time. She was exactly suited for the work she had undertaken, a splendid nurse, a good housekeeper, a woman of strong Christian character, full of tact and sympathy. What she accomplished in the three years she was there was wonderful, and only the few who saw St. Anthony Hospital, as it was then and as it is now can realize what she did. The first winter she was alone, with an average of twelve patients, and only the girls of the country to assist her. Now, thanks to the energy of Dr. Little, who is in charge of that hospital, it has been enlarged very much and as thoroughly furnished as any city hospital. The work that is done in that little hospital is tremendous. The hospital was only meant for the northern

part of the island, but patients come from all parts, knowing if any one can help them it is Dr. Little, and even before the wards were quite finished they had more beds in them than had been planned for. The patients get much more than mere medical or surgical care. As far as possible we try to understand their circumstances and make them feel we are interested in them personally and anxious to help them in any way we can. They are a religious people and seem to enjoy and appreciate the services that are held in the hospital. Especially do they enjoy singing the Sankey hymns, so we tried to have "a sing" for them every night directly after tea. The dispensary work is large. A great many schooners bring patients on their way up or down, and the people come for miles around, so that from early morning until night it is a rare thing not to have someone waiting to see the doctor. There have been three doctors and three nurses there this winter, all busy. The doctors do a great deal of travelling, using dogs or deer to draw the tromatiks. They have regular trips they make, as well as the many unexpected calls for them. They generally bring word of patients they have found who are following them, so that while there are not nearly as many in the hospital in the winter as the summer it is generally busy. Any spare time is spent preparing for the summer; once the first boat comes, every day is busy, so that everything extra must be done before that. This year the boat came late in January, then not again until the beginning of May. This was an exceptionally short time to be closed in. During the winter, mails are carried overland, so that though it would be very hard to get out you don't realize it, getting letters regularly, for they are fairly regular.

The summer at St. Anthony is a very busy time. A coast boat, quite a good steamer, comes from St. Johns every two weeks, arriving at St. Anthony on Sunday, to our disgust, for like other hospitals we tried to lessen the work as much as possible on Sundays. We could see the smoke some miles out and as soon as that was reported we began to get ready. For days before we had been making large quantities of supplies so as to be ready for anything that might come. The steamer went on farther, calling on her return trip, in about twenty-four hours. All patients who were discharged, and all those who had come up by her, but not admitted, had to be ready to go by then, which meant a very strenuous time for us all. As soon as the boat arrives, the halt, the maimed and the blind stream up to the hospital. Each is given a number as he or she comes in, and they go into a large airy room which is used as dining and sitting room for the in-patients, and for waiting room for out-patients. As the numbers are called, they go into one of the

doctors' rooms and so on until all have been examined, the doctors making notes on each case. Then they decide which are most important to come in, for with limited room only those who can be really helped can be admitted, and often not all of these. Medicines for those going away must be made up and minor operations performed. There are no dentists, so there are always people to have teeth pulled, often under anæsthesia. Besides this work the people must all be given meals, and somewhere to rest a little, benches, couches, wheel chairs, deck chairs, even the dental chair, any place they can get. We keep a lot of warm comfortables and pillows in lockers round the waiting room and the tops of these lockers are used for lying on. Soon some place will be built where they can get meals and berths, but at present it is part of the hospital work to care for them.

By the time the boat is off again every place is in confusion, for as many as sixty have come on one boat. One morning we served ninety-three breakfasts. We were generally given one day to get in order again, then the next day operating on the new patients began. We had patients with every trouble you would get here. The largest number of operations we did in one day was eight, but six several times; then they operate every day until all is done for that lot. The reason for hurrying is to get them out again as quickly as possible. Now the hospital is not only well equipped with all modern conveniences, steam heating, plumbing, and electric light, but it has the more important addition of more doctors and more nurses. In the old days one doctor assisted by a nurse, with a lay person giving the anæsthetic, would do a big operation, the ward maid waiting on them, but now it is very different; and while they are very busy it is no longer a question of how to manage, not having the proper things, and finding a substitute that can be made to do. Besides the hospital proper there was a tent where five tuberculous patients could be. When I left, two houses were being built. They were built after a plan used in a large tuberculosis sanitarium, two bedrooms, with the entire front to open, and a dressing room between.

The mission work has grown so much that it is impossible for Dr. Grenfell to give his personal attention to each department, so he has a very able accountant to assist him in the financial part, and while he visits and keeps in touch with the hospitals, most of the work he leaves to the doctors in charge. In the summer he spends most of his time on the hospital ship *Strathcona*, going at regular times to the different villages all along the Labrador coast. He has an assistant on board generally, who can relieve him of much of the medical work, for while it is a hospital ship, attending to the sick is only one of the

many things Dr. Grenfell does on his trips. He is the only one many of the people have to ask advice of and many and various are the tales and troubles he has to listen to and helps to find a way out of. He tries to have services in the evening when possible, exchanges clothes he has had sent for distribution, a great many from this country, for anything he can use at all, fish, berries, wood, etc., etc. He carries a number of loan libraries which he will leave anywhere the people can read sufficiently to enjoy them. They are exchanged for another when he comes again. He is the busiest man possible, for his work is so varied that he no sooner finishes one thing than he is at something of quite a different character. It is only the variety of it that makes it possible for him to work as many hours every day as he does, both with his brain and his hands.

Besides the hospitals there is a mission house at G'orteau where either a nurse or doctor stays. It has room for a couple of patients, but the work is principally done outside, travelling many miles up and down the coast. Then in the summer, when it is possible to get about fairly easily, Dr. Grenfell tries to have a number of nurses at different places, living amongst the people, nursing, and teaching them how to take care of those who are ill and how to prevent much illness and suffering. These people have lived so isolated that they have many old women's ways of doing things which are very trying to a nurse used to the teaching of a modern hospital, but it doesn't do to rush in and tell them everything is wrong and must be done in just a certain way. I did this kind of work for four months and a half one winter, and it was most interesting, but I found I had to make friends by visiting them, even where no sickness was, and learning how they lived, before I could say much. Once they understood why and what I was there for, I found them willing to let me do anything, and they would at least listen to all I wanted to say to them. It is so sad to be in that country where fresh air is so plentiful and see tuberculosis in every house, almost. They live, many in one small house, often all in one room all day and sleeping in the other room all together at night; not a window, no, not even a crack, open for fresh air, for all round the windows will be pasted with paper to prevent a draught. It is cold, bitterly cold, for those people who have not the warm clothes we take with us, and it is hard for them to realize it is better to be a little cold than breathing that foul air, but little by little they are being taught how to take care of those who have already contracted the disease and how to prevent others getting it. Another hard problem for the district nurse is the obstetrical work. These people have no idea of cleanliness and

care at such time, and many a weary, half-sick woman came to me who had simply had no care after delivery. Then, while a religious people, emotional and fond of going to church, their morals are of a very low order, and the opportunity often comes to speak a word in season. It is very much like what I fancy district work would be anywhere, as far as the actual work goes, but the setting is very different. You haven't a comfortable home to come back to with congenial companions, but must live always amongst the people, but to compensate you for that you have the satisfaction and joy of feeling you are of use and helping others who would be quite without help of this kind otherwise. The people are not all desperately poor and absolutely ignorant, as many people think. In the southern part of Newfoundland it is very different from what we hear and read of in connection with Dr. Grenfell's work. In the north, it is as we think of it, most of the people living very sparingly, but he has chosen that barren, poor part because that is where he is needed, not where people can afford to supply their wants and needs as we do in our home countries. He holds out a helping hand to one and all, but only those who have nothing else to give are supposed to give only love and gratitude, others he expects to make some material return for what is done for them. He is too anxious to be a true friend to them to lower either their self-respect or his respect for them.

About 30,000 fishermen visit St. Johns in the spring and autumn to buy supplies and sell the summer's catch of fish. These men loaf about the many saloons in the city and learn anything but the better things of life. Dr. Grenfell has been most anxious to establish a "Seaman's Home" for the many sailors as well as fishermen who go there. It has been hard work, but his desire will soon be a reality and a splendid building fully provided with everything they can need while in port; not only board and lodging but healthy amusements and entertainment and a swimming bath where they can learn to swim. It is very rare for any of these men to be able to swim, and yet everyone who goes there hears of lives lost because they could not swim or keep up until help came. The home will be in charge of a man trained in Y. M. C. A. work and who has been going amongst them studying their lives and habits so as to understand their needs when in the near future the home is open and ready to be a home and shelter for the fishermen and sailors while in St. Johns. His wife is also preparing herself to be a help to the schooner girls. They can be taught plain cooking and to use a greater variety of food. Each schooner has a girl on it to do the cooking and washing. It is a very hard, rough life for a girl, but they hope to be able to do much to make them happier and better by what they will teach

them while they are in St. Johns. New work is opening up all the time, but this will give you some idea of how it has grown and developed under Dr. Grenfell.

I must say one word about the Children's Home in St. Anthony. It is in charge of one of those women who are the salt of the earth, strong and capable, strict, but just always. The children are brought from homes of want and often where the influence has been bad and placed under her care in a bright, airy home. All who are old enough are given some definite work, but each has time and opportunity to be a child and play as one. They are the brightest, happiest lot of children I have ever seen. They go to the school that Dr. Grenfell has established there and are so bright in their lessons they prove it is only the opportunity to learn that these children need to be able to be the equals of children of more fortunate parts.

MORAL PROPHYLAXIS

By GEORGE P. DALE, M.D.

Dayton, Ohio

(Continued from page 788)

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

At this point I wish to give some idea of the prevalence and severity of gonorrhœal inflammation of the eyes in the new-born. Practically all of the ophthalmia of the new-born, of a virulent type, is caused by the gonococcus. There are other organisms which may cause inflammation of the eyes, but this is usually of a mild catarrhal type and rarely affects the integrity of the vision. The conjunctiva of the new-born is peculiarly liable to infection. In our asylums 40 per cent. of all blindness is due to gonorrhœa. Among every 100 children born in London, one child suffers from purulent inflammation of the eyes in the first few days of life, and many of these become blind from the disease. In Germany there are 30,000 blind due to gonorrhœa, and with all the skill that the thorough-going Germans can bring to bear upon the treatment of the infection, recognized at the very outset in the eyes of the babe, there yet remains an annual crop of 600 cases of this perfectly preventable form of blindness. Hamilton County, Ohio, in which Cincinnati is located, has a population of over 450,000 and of this number 450 are blind, or 1 in each 1000 of the population of this county. In this connection it might be stated that almost 65 per cent. of the women of Cincinnati are delivered by midwives. It is the